

Blessing of a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene

The tradition of the Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene, which portrays the humble birth of Jesus Christ, was popularized by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223 to bring the joy of the Nativity to life for all people.

The blessing of the manger may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at a suitable time during the Advent season.

When the Nativity Scene is set up in the home, it is appropriate for it to be blessed by a parent, grandparent, or another family member.

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Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response: Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, such as Luke 2:1-7 (The Birth of Jesus) or Isaiah 9:2-6 (The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light).

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

The leader prays with hands joined:

Heavenly Father,
Your eternal Word took flesh in the womb of the Virgin
Mary and made His dwelling among us in the child
Jesus.

Bless this crèche, a symbol of the Holy Family's
shelter, and let it be a sign of Your love made
visible.

May all who gaze upon this manger
scene be filled with faith, hope,
and charity.

Grant that we may seek Your face,
just as the shepherds and wise men sought the Christ child.

Help us to imitate His humility and
selflessness so that our hearts may
become a dwelling place worthy of Your
presence.

Bless our family and friends gathered
here, and fill our home with the light
of Christ, who is our Lord, Emmanuel,
God-with-us, now and forever.

Response: Amen.

